

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4363

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: MEXICAN VIEWS ON DISARMAMENT ITEMS

1. AMB. MARTIN AT HIS REQUEST MET WITH MEXICAN PERM REP GARCIA ROBLES OCT. 23 FOR REVIEW OF THIS YEAR'S DISARMAMENT ISSUES. MOST ITEMS WERE COVERED IN COURSE OF HALF-HOUR MEETING. FOLLOWING COMMENTS BY GARCIA ROBLES WERE OF INTEREST:

(A) COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB). MEXICO WILL ONCE AGAIN AUTHOR A CTB RES, PROBABLY VERY SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S. WORK ON THE DRAFT HAS NOT YET BEGUN.

(B) WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE (WDC). MEXICO AND MANY OTHER DELS WOULD BE HAPPY IF CHINA AND THE US COULD SUPPORT A RES WHICH WOULD PROVIDE SOMEWHAT MORE MEANINGFUL TERMS OF REFERENCE THAN LAST YEAR'S, SOME KIND OF "MODEST STEP FORWARD", AND COULD ALSO PROMISE TO COOPERATE IN THE WORK OF A COMMITTEE WITH THEIR
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PRESENCE AT LEAST IN THE FASHION OF THE UK AND FRANCE

LAST YEAR. SPECIFICALLY MEXICO IS THINKING IN TERMS OF A MANDATE TO EXPLORE THE MOST ADVISABLE TASKS CONNECTED WITH THE PREPARATION OF A WDC, WHICH WOULD HOWEVER NOT BE A MANDATE ACTUALLY TO PREPARE A WDC. GARCIA ROBLES SAID IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE US WOULD THINK IT OVER AND LET MEXICO AND LIKE-MINDED DELS KNOW JUST HOW MUCH FORWARD MOVEMENT THE US COULD ACCEPT.

MARTIN EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE US COULD SUPPORT ANY BROADENING OF THE MANDATE OF THE KIND GARCIA ROBLES SUGGESTED; SINCE WE SEE NO CHANGE IN THE UNDERLYING POLITICAL SITUATION, OUR VIEWS ON A WDC ARE UNCHANGED. ASKED WHETHER HE HAD OBSERVED ANY CHANGE IN THE CHINESE POSITION, GARCIA ROBLES POINTED OUT THAT CHINA IS ALWAYS ABLE TO SHIELD ITSELF BEHIND US OBJECTIONS AND MIGHT COME ROUND IF COMPLETELY ISOLATED. ASKED HOW PUTTING THE WHOLE ISSUE ON ICE FOR A YEAR WOULD STRIKE HIM, GARCIA ROBLES SAID THE TROUBLE WITH THIS IS THAT MANY DELS WOULD BEGIN TO THINK OF OTHER POSSIBILITIES SUCH AS A REVIVED UNDC OR A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA ON DISARMAMENT. HE SAID THE OBVIOUS IMPOSSIBILITY OF 138 UN MEMBERS DOING SERIOUS WORK ON TWELVE DISARMAMENT ITEMS DURING BRIEF FIRST COMMITTEE SESSION POINTED UP NEED FOR A WDC AS A DELIBERATIVE BODY TO COMPLEMENT THE CCD AS A NEGOTIATING BODY.

(C) REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS (ROB). GARCIA ROBLES SAID HE HAD NOT YET STUDIED THE EXPERTS REPORT CAREFULLY BUT WOULD DO SO WITH A VIEW TO DECIDING WHETHER SOME KIND OF FOLLOW-UP WORK SHOULD BE RECOMMENDED TO THE GA; LAST YEAR'S SOVIET PROPOSAL HAS BEEN SHELVED PRACTICALLY SPEAKING. MARTIN SAID WE THOUGHT THE EXPERTS REPORT WAS A GOOD JOB CONSIDERING THE DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN SUCH AN ENTERPRISE AND WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT A RES COMMENDING IT.

(D) SOVIET ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION PROPOSAL (EN MOD) GARCIA-ROBLES SAID HE WELCOMED THE PROPOSAL; IT APPEARS TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY THE EXISTENCE OF THE CCD AND AS SUCH IS BADLY NEEDED. AFTER MARTIN SPOKE OF OUR DIFFICULTIES
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WITH THE SOVIET DRAFT CONVENTION AND THE RES, AND OF OUR INTENTION TO SEEK CHANGES IN RES, GARCIA ROBLES SAID HE WAS SURE MARTIN AND SOV AMB ROSHCHIN COULD EASILY SETTLE ANY DIFFERENCES AND ACHIEVE AN ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION.

(E) PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS (PNES). GARCIA-ROBLES SAID HE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR THIS GA TO RECOMMEND WAYS TO DEAL WITH PNES, AND HE WOULD "PREFER"

NOT TO HAVE ANY RESOLUTIONS ON PNES. HOWEVER, HE IS
MAINTAINING AN OPEN MIND ON THE SUBJECT.

(F) CHEMICAL WEAPONS. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ABOUT CW
RES BEING PROMOTED BY POLISH DEL (AND REPORTEDLY BEING
NEGOTIATED WITH NON-ALIGNED), GARCIA-ROBLES SAID HE KNEW
OF NO DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS FIELD AND SPECIFICALLY WAS
UNINFORMED ABOUT ANY DRAFT RESES.
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